

# French submarine *Pluviôse*

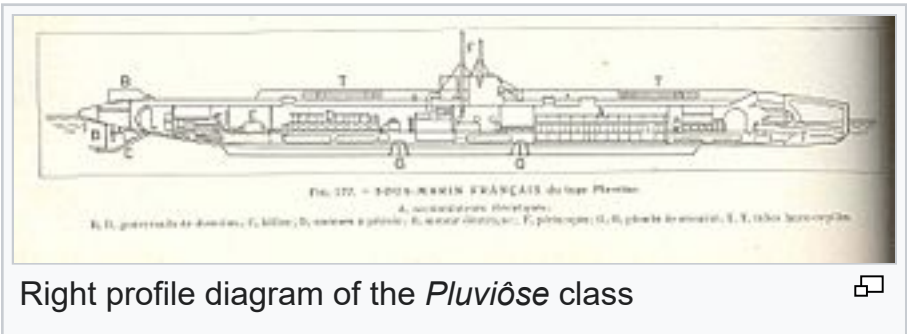
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French submarine ***Pluviôse (Q51)*** was the **name ship** of **her class** of 18 submarines built for the **French Navy** (*Marine Nationale*) in the first decade of the 20th century.

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## Design and description [[edit source](#)]



3 in), and a [draft](#) of 3.15 meters (10 ft 4 in). Their crew numbered 2 officers and 23 enlisted men.<sup>[2]</sup>

For surface running, the boats were powered by two 350-metric-horsepower (345 bhp; 257 kW) triple-expansion steam engines, each driving one propeller shaft using steam provided by two Du Temple boilers. When submerged each propeller was driven by a 230-metric-horsepower (227 bhp; 169 kW) electric motor.<sup>[3]</sup> On the surface they were designed to reach a maximum speed of 12 knots (22 km/h; 14 mph) and 8 knots (15 km/h; 9.2 mph) underwater.<sup>[1]</sup> The submarines had a surface endurance of 865 nautical miles (1,602 km; 995 mi) at 11.6 knots (21.5 km/h; 13.3 mph) and a submerged endurance of 70 nmi (130 km; 81 mi) at 2.8 knots (5.2 km/h; 3.2 mph).<sup>[4]</sup>

The first six boats completed, including *Pluviôse*, were armed with a single 450-millimeter (17.7 in) internal bow **torpedo tube**, but after an accident that led to the sinking of their sister *Fresnel* in 1909, the tubes were removed from *Pluviôse* and her sister *Messidor*. All of the boats were fitted with six 450 mm external **torpedo launchers**; the pair firing forward were fixed outwards at an angle of seven degrees and the rear pair had an angle of five degrees. Following a ministerial order on 22 February 1910, the aft tubes were reversed so they too fired forward, but at an angle of eight degrees. The other launchers were a rotating pair of **Drzewiecki drop collars** in a single mount positioned on top of the hull at the stern. They could **traverse** 150 degrees to each side of the boat. The *Pluviôse*-class submarines carried eight torpedoes.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Construction and career [[edit source](#)]

*Pluviôse*, named for the [fifth month](#) of the [French Republican calendar](#), was ordered on 26 August 1905 from the [Arsenal de Cherbourg](#). The submarine was [laid down](#) in 1906, [launched](#) on 27 June 1907 and [commissioned](#) on 5 October 1908.<sup>[6]</sup>

On the afternoon of 26 May 1910 *Pluviôse* was cruising off [Calais](#) when she was involved in a collision with the packet boat *Pas de Calais*. *Pluviôse* sank with the loss of all hands, 27 men. The vessel was later raised and repaired, and returned to active service. Her captain at the time of the accident Maurice Callot, was later honoured by having [a submarine named after him](#).

*Pluviôse* was stricken in 1919 and used for compression tests. She was eventually sold for scrap in 1925.

## Notes [\[ edit source \]](#)


1. <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> Gardiner & Gray, p. 209
2. <sup>a</sup> Garier 1998, pp. 51, 54, 56, 65
3. <sup>a</sup> Garier 1998, pp. 56–59
4. <sup>a</sup> Garier 1998, p. 67
5. <sup>a</sup> Garier 1998, pp. 59–60
6. <sup>a</sup> Couhat, p. 140; Garier 1998, p. 49

## Bibliography [[edit source](#)]

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- Garier, Gérard (1998). *Des Émeraude (1905-1906) au Charles Brun (1908–1933)*. L'odyssée technique et humaine du sous-marin en France (in French). **2**. Bourg-en-Bresse, France: Marines édition. [ISBN 2-909675-34-3](#).

## External links   [ [edit source](#) ]

- *Pluviôse* at Sous-marins Français 1863 -   (French)

V · T · E  ***Pluviôse-class submarine*** [hide]

*Ampère · Berthelot · Cugnot · Floréal · Fresnel · Fructidor · Gay-Lussac · Germinal · Giffard · Messidor · Monge · Papin ·* **Pluviôse** *· Prairial · Thermidor · Vendémiaire · Ventôse · Watt*

Preceded by: *Circé class* · Followed by: *Brumaire class*

Categories: [Pluviôse-class submarines](#) | [World War I submarines of France](#) | [1907 ships](#) | [Ships built in France](#) | [Ships sunk in collisions](#) | [Ships lost with all hands](#)

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